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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Woman Sentenced to Prison For Deadly Crash in Northwest Washington - Stumbled Out of a Bar, Got Behind the Wheel, and Hit Victims -

WASHINGTON - Chamica Adams, 24, was sentenced today to 72 months in prison for involuntary manslaughter in a traffic accident that killed one woman and injured another. The judge suspended part of the sentence, requiring Adams to serve a total of 40 months in prison on the condition that she successfully complete terms of probation, perform community service, take classes about alcohol abuse and the impact of crimes upon victims, and seek counseling.

The sentence was announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Adams, of Mitchelville, Md., pled guilty to the charge in March 2011 and has been in custody ever since. She was sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher. Judge Fisher ordered that Adams complete five years of probation and supervised release after finishing her prison term. Under provisions of her sentence, Adams also will be required to perform 500 hours of community service, take the classes about the risks of alcohol and the impact of crimes upon victims, and seek mental health services for herself.

Judge Fisher said that the family of Julia Bachleitner, the woman killed in the accident, will choose the community service project.

According to the government's evidence, Adams had been drinking at a club in the 2400 block of 18th Street NW on the evening of September 8, 2010, just prior to the crash. A security video from inside the club showed her having several drinks and stumbling as she left the establishment, alone, moments before the accident.

At about 8:35 p.m., Adams was operating a 2007 Dodge Caliber southbound on 18th Street NW, at the intersection with Florida Avenue. As she attempted to make a left turn, at what appeared to be a high rate of speed, she rode upon a traffic island. Four people – all students

from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University – were on the island, awaiting the signal to cross the street. Adams drove through the group, striking Julia Bachleitner and a friend, sending them airborne. She then crashed the car into an empty restaurant storefront.

The defendant was not injured. She was arrested and given breath tests that showed her blood alcohol levels to be nearly twice the legal limit. In addition, a bottle of liquor - three-quarters empty - was found in the glove box of the defendant's car after the crash.

Ms. Bachleitner and her friend were taken to hospitals. Ms. Bachleitner, 26, died six days after the crash. Her friend, then 26, suffered facial fractures, a compound leg fracture, loss of teeth, and a concussion with bleeding on the brain. She was hospitalized for several days.

“The guilt that comes from taking an innocent life, along with the prison sentence handed down by the court today, should chasten anyone who thinks about getting behind the wheel after drinking,” said U.S. Attorney Machen. “This sentence shows our resolve to secure justice for victims of drunk driving.”

“This tragic event highlights the dangers of drinking and driving,” said Chief Lanier. “Not only was one person killed and another injured, because of a very bad decision, but the driver now is at the mercy of the court and will have to live with her decision to drive drunk for the rest of her life.”

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Chief Lanier praised the investigative efforts of those who worked on the case from the MPD, including Detectives Scott Earhardt, Michael Millett and Joseph Diliberto, Officers Robert Taylor, Robert Ferretti and Lavida Ellerbe, and Mobile Crime Technician Robert McCollum. They also acknowledged the efforts of those who worked on the matter from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Victim Witness Advocate Marcey Rinker and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael T. Truscott, who provided assistance at sentencing. Finally, they commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Soroka, who investigated and prosecuted the case.